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FM AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4147
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1954
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0390
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0445
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0018
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0124
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0066
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0337
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0690
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0144
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0068
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0381
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 3391
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0526
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0083
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0886

UNCLAS BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 000101

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: BRUNEI: URGING PSI ENDORSEMENT PRIOR TO MAY

REF: A) STATE 23568
B) STATE 28161

¶1. (U) Per reftel B, Ambassador met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Permanent Secretary Datin Maimunah to urge formal Government of Brunei (GOB) endorsement of the Proliferation Security Initiative Statement of Interdiction Principles (SOP) prior to the May 28-29 PSI Fifth Anniversary Event. (Maimunah was the GOB representative to the June 2006 PSI High Level Political Meeting in Poland and the January 2007 Asian Senior-Level Talks on Nonproliferation.) Edited reftel points and sample diplomatic note were left as non-papers, along with a copy of the SOP.

¶2. (SBU) Datin Maimunah admitted that GOB legal and policy review of SOP endorsement had slowed since the high-level visit for which it was being considered as a deliverable was postponed. She was unsure of the current status. Maimunah agreed to check with her colleagues on where things stood with a view to determining whether the GOB could provide written endorsement before May and so qualify for an invitation to the first day of the Fifth Anniversary Event. Per instructions in para 4 of reftel A, in the absence of formal SOP endorsement from the GOB Ambassador did not/not deliver Under Secretary Rood's letter of invitation to the Fifth Anniversary

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Event.

¶3. (SBU) COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST: Inertia is too often the default position of the overworked and understaffed MFAT. Although we will continue to ping Datin Maimunah and colleagues for formal SOP endorsement, absent additional incentive we are not optimistic about an early positive reply. To help nudge the GOB forward, Embassy recommends that a modified invitation letter to the PSI Fifth Anniversary Event be sent from Under Secretary Rood and/or EAP Assistant Secretary Hill to Foreign Minister II Lim Jock Seng. Letter should ask for appropriate GOB representation; make clear that absent a formal, written endorsement of the SOP, the GOB is only invited to the second day of the event; and, briefly highlight the advantages the GOB could gain from participating in policy discussions on the first day should it endorse the SOP. END COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST.
SKODON